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lation can be compared only to the corresponding classes of Western Europe in the Middle Ages, before the peasant rebellions of the Age of the Reformation. Their immediate needs will be remedied by better methods of government and a just distribution of the land; and those of the future by education, which will enable them ultimately to acquire also political privileges. In this and other respects, the book is an admirable example of scientific geographical study which "neither praises nor condemns, but tries to understand." M. K. G.

**Immanuel Kant, *Physische Geographie*.** Zweite Auflage. **Herausgegeben von Paul Gedan.** Philosophische Bibliothek, Band 51. Leipzig, Dürsche Buchhandlung, 1905. (Price, M. 2.80.)

Kant at Königsberg and Gatterer at Göttingen were the first scholars who introduced geography as a science into the curriculum of the university, and for this reason Kant's Physical Geography will never lose its value as one of the fundamental documents of our science. This, and the fact that the book is based, not on the original manuscript of the author, but only on lecture notes of some of his hearers, has caused a considerable number of republications of the book by various scholars even after it had long lost its value as a source of information. This edition by Dr. Gedan is the latest of them, and shows a considerable number of corrections which bear testimony of how carefully every means of getting as near as possible to the author's true meaning has been utilized. In an introductory sketch the editor shows that the author of the *Critique of Pure Reason* was far from treating the subject only as a hobby or side-interest. He announced this course of lectures for no less than 47 semesters and read it in 29. He laid especial emphasis on the educational value of geography, emphasizing the need of a scientific treatment of the subject which should substitute careful examination of the facts for the credulous acceptance of marvellous tales, and he contributed to it himself by original investigations of geological, meteorological, and anthropological problems. In 1756, for instance, he discovered the law of the deviation of the trade winds, independent of Hadley; in 1754 he claimed the necessity of long geological periods in opposition to the theory of cataclysms; and in 1798, in his *Anthropology*, demanded "a natural history . . . which would show the changes of the creatures of the earth being due to migration and subsequent deviation from a few original types," thus anticipating the ideals of Lyell, Darwin, and Moritz Wagner. In the plan of the book it is interesting that the author's conception of physical geography comprises physical geography, strictly speaking, as well as a short systematic zoology, botany, mineralogy, and regional geography of the countries. He evidently understood the term, as even some modern scientists do, as the scientific treatment of natural phenomena in contrast with the merely descriptive treatment. Beside this "physical geography" proper, he places as independent but correlated subjects mathematical geography, "moral" geography (the study of the ethics of the nations upon a geographic basis), political geography, commercial geography, and "religious" geography (the study of religions from a geographic point of view). Thus he approaches Humboldt in the universal conception of the subject, and it is certainly one of the most felicitous circumstances in the history of our science that, when his metaphysical work began to absorb him so as to put a stop to further researches in the concrete sciences, Humboldt was all ready to take up the work where Kant had left it. M. K. G.